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ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUN 24 1966

AWSWX

(550) TODAY IN WASHINGTON

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24 (AP)--CIA: THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOMINATION OF RICHARD M. HELMS AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

HELMS, 53, A FORMER NEWSPAPERMAN AND NAVAL OFFICER, HAS BEEN WITH THE CIA SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1947 AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS WAS IN CHARGE OF PLANS--MEANING COVERT OPERATIONS. HE WOULD SUCCEED WILLIAM F. RABORN WHO RESIGNED AFTER 13 MONTHS AS DIRECTOR.

IN HIS BRIEF APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, HELMS SAID "THERE IS NEVER ANY EFFORT (BY THE CIA) TO INFLUENCE" FOREIGN POLICY. "THE CIA TAKES NO ACTION WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THEY ARE NOT IN THE CIA," HE SAID.

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